

July 30, 2003

SUBJECT: Reservoir Operations Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Study, 2nd Big Sandy Lake Group Meeting

1. The second ROPE meeting for the Big Sandy Lake Group was held at the Big Sandy Dam in the meeting room on July 30, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. There were nine people in attendance that lived either on Big Sandy Lake or on the Prairie and Mississippi Rivers.
2. The meeting started at 10 a.m. with everyone introducing themselves and stating where they were from and how long they had been property owners on the lake or rivers. Jeff Steere, Sandy Lake Resource Manager, gave a brief update on the progress of the ROPE Study and the reason for having this meeting.
3. Jeff Steere explained the steps the group needed to take in order to complete the worksheet. The group decided everyone would fill out their own individual worksheet on the scaling column. Once everyone had completed that step, the group would average their numbers and discuss the average to make sure that number represented the majority of stakeholders. The activities in the "Range of Preferred Elevations for Activity or Use" column were discussed on an individual basis. Everyone had the opportunity to voice his or her opinion on each activity. The exercise went smoothly and everyone felt they had an opportunity to be heard. Everyone was involved with discussing and rating the different categories. It was pretty much a unanimous decision that flooding was of most importance among the group, followed closely by recreation and then erosion and the natural/environmental categories.
4. The discussion identified two items that a majority of participants were concerned about.
 - a. The first item was the fall drawdown procedure. Everyone wondered why the fall drawdown could not be postponed until November 1 instead of October 1. The drawdown negatively affects the lakeshore owners' dock and boat lift use, along with fall fishing and duck hunting. There was concern that the early drawdown dried up the shallow rice beds, causing a loss of valuable food source for the migrating waterfowl.
 - b. The second item was the removal of the fish ladder on the dam. Lakeshore property owners seem to feel that, since the Corps removed the fish ladder on the dam, the fisheries in the lake have been poorer.
5. Jim Anderson, one of the participants from the Big Sandy Lake Group, would like to attend and become involved with the Mississippi River Group in the Aitkin area.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.
7. A meeting roster is attached with the names and complete addresses of all participants.

BIG SANDY LAKE GROUP ROSTER

JULY 30, 2003

Russell Thompson	51120 Lake Avenue, McGregor, MN 55760	218-426-3369
Jim Anderson	50323 214 th Place, McGregor, MN 55760	218-426-4430
Gil Birkholz	50409 214 th Place, McGregor, MN 55760	218-426-3339
Bob Greifzu	51500 Long Pt Place, McGregor, MN 55760	218-426-4055
Howard Templin	50408 214 th Place, McGregor, MN 55760	218-426-3257
Frayda Nitschke	44999 378 th Lane, Aitkin, MN 56431	218-927-6445
Barb Vermeerah	43569 373 rd Lane, Aitkin, MN 56431	218-927-2497
Fred Dauer	Kimble Pt. Rd, McGregor, MN 55760	218-426-4494
John Elstad	50365 214 th Place, McGregor, MN 55760	218-426-3841